

ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

POST OAK

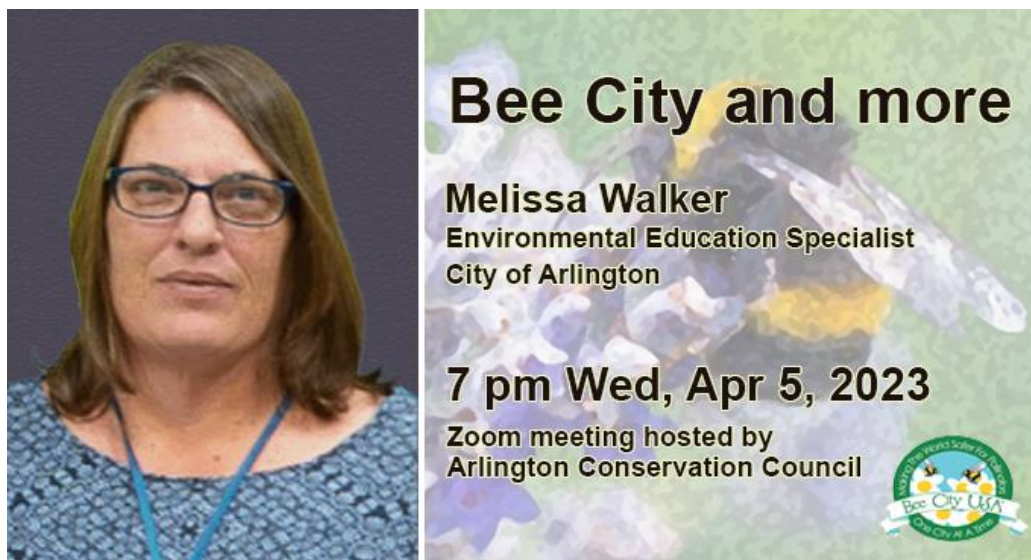
VOLUME 24, NUMBER 3

APRIL 2023



BLACKLAND PRAIRIE PRESERVE • GUY RANDOM PHOTO

April Zoom Meeting



Read more about this program on page 5

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89850862163>

For assistance accessing the meeting, contact Frank Keeney,
webmaster@acctexas.org

6:30 p.m. social time and equipment check, 7 p.m. presentation

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From the President **Dick Schoech**



Need something to jump-start your spring? Take a hike

With cold weather behind us and COVID-19 cases declining, now is the time to reconnect with nature by hiking.

Two types of hikes exist. The first has a destination even if it involves a loop ending at the starting point. The goal is exercise by walking, jogging, running, or biking toward something. Hikers may stop periodically to rest or observe nature, but their goal is to exercise by going from one point to another, usually the faster the better. This type of hiker is easy to spot by the specialty shoes and attire, which often looks expensive even if it covers very little.

The second type has no goal other than to get out and experience. These hikers may not go any distance at all if they become fascinated with some aspect of nature such as plants, rocks, soils, or scenery. Expect to see them kneeling on the ground staring at a plant or gazing in the trees to identify a bird. They are often oblivious to bikers or runners, especially if they're engrossed in bird or plant ID apps like [Merlin](#) or [Seek](#), or writing in their journals. This group usually wears long pants, shirts, and hiking boots to protect from the greenbriers, poison ivy, and other nature hazards.



Type 1 hikers at Goat Island Preserve in the Trinity River Greenbelt in South Dallas, Feb. 18 2023, Dick Schoech photo.

continued on page 4



ACC POST OAK

Our mission: ACC works to protect Arlington's natural environment through education, community service, and advocacy for a sustainable future

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P.O. Box 216
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John Darling, editor
ldarling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors

Rebecca Boxall, Annabelle Corboy,
Grace Darling, John Darling,
John Dycus, Marian Hiler,
Carol Marcotte, Jeff Quayle,
Guy Random, Dick Schoech,
Connie Unsicker, Tom Unsicker

Proofreaders

Marian Hiler, Grace Darling

Deadline for submissions is the
15th of every preceding month.
Please send them to
ldarling@sbcglobal.net

From the President continued from page 3



Type 2 hikers: people doing many things uncoordinated. Note the sweatshirt message: "Introverted but willing to discuss native plants." Dick Schoech photo.

My experience is that these two types rarely join on the same hike. If they do, one will be dissatisfied. They can also be dangerous if on the same path, as the first type has to yell something like "coming through" to avoid crashing into the second type, who are oblivious to anything other than what they are observing. Know what type of hike you're joining, and show respect by sidestepping rather than bad mouthing the other type.

An example of the dangers of mixing the two types on a path occurs on the northwest side of [River Legacy Park](#), which has trails for walking or mountain biking in a densely priveted area. Take a picture of the path map of this area, because once you start hiking, you only see solid privet. Hard-to-find numbered markers along the paths are your only chance of escape. Even if walkers are not lost, they must be prepared to jump out of the way as experienced mountain bikers zoom up behind them.

DFW has a wealth of hiking opportunities. You can find places with paved trails, dirt trails, and areas where you make and explore your own path. To promote citizen health, cities provide information on parks and nature events for humans of all ages. Parks typically have websites or newsletters that

announce events that explore the unique opportunities they offer.

Many groups sponsor hikes and places to hike that promote their mission. Dallas, Tarrant, and nearby counties usually have [Sierra](#), [Audubon](#), [Master Naturalist](#), [Native Prairie](#), cycling, and other groups that conduct nature hikes locally and even in neighboring states. Hike leaders are usually excellent and are selected based on ability to please their hikers. For adventurous hiking in large parks like [Big Bend](#), a leader can be vital for preparing participants to have a good experience. Hiking with improper shoes and clothing or not enough water can be dangerous.

A little research can make the difference between an average and an excellent hike. Park websites and apps like [All Trails](#) also provide maps, basic details, and important user reviews. Newsletters, magazines like [Texas Parks and Wildlife](#), and [books](#) like Amy Martin's forthcoming [Wild DFW](#) can make your spring hikes more informative and enjoyable. Take a hike!

Melissa Walker, Our April Speaker

Melissa has been with the City of Arlington Public Works and Environment Department for almost 23 years, first in the Construction Survey division and subsequently with the Environmental Compliance program, until she became a Stormwater Education Specialist about 7 years ago. In this position her primary responsibilities are to develop instructional materials for adults and children; give presentations and hold interactive programs for schools and civic groups on stormwater pollution and prevention, flood safety and preparedness, and water quality and its effects on the local environment; create and maintain the city's stormwater management website; and write articles and social media posts on these topics.

In October 2019 Arlington became a certified affiliate of Bee City USA on the strength of its commitment "to conserve native pollinators by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites, and reducing the use of pesticides" -- and Melissa took on the additional role of Bee City USA Coordinator. Tune in and help us welcome this very busy lady's update on her many jobs.



Mexican plum at the wildscape. Josephine Keeney photo.

Bits & Pieces

The Terse Treehugger



Mysterious object stuck in mountain laurel. Turns out to be white chewing gum.

Don't they know the flowers smell like *grape bubble gum*?

We need appropriate litter.

Visit ACC's
[Facebook page](#)
and
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Nor any drop to drink



Just happened, and World Water Day seems to have skipped Texas and DFW in particular. The day just sank without a trace (sorry) as we march relentlessly toward drowning over 67,000 acres for [Marvin Nichols Reservoir](#) so we can keep squandering water here.



This Mexican buckeye near a porchlight attracted pollinating moths at night.

Pollinator or Villain?



The other night several blooming cherry laurels in the yard were mobbed by white-speck moths. The adults are well-known pollinators, but their caterpillars are armyworms that advance in waves through fields, damaging crops as they move. While it's fun to learn the local moths, there's always more to the story.

**Join us and act locally.
Use the application form
on the back page.**



Question Corner John Darling

Q: Okay, I'm a real person for a change, not some thing you made up because nobody will talk to you. And go easy on the snide, because I am sincere and earnest. What should I do with all my shredded paper?

A: Of course you are, S&E. That's a lovely question, and it deserves an S&E answer. First, don't dump that shredded stuff in your recycling cart; it makes a mess. Recycling is the best use, so put that paper in unshredded, maybe with your personal stuff blacked out. If you really crave shredding, the [TimeToRecycle](#) web page for this topic lists several uses, including composting. Shredded paper — other than colored or glossy — is okay in your compost pile. Sprinkle it in a little at a time to avoid soggy anaerobic clumps that won't decompose properly. That Time to Recycle site has uses I've never considered, so be sure to take a look when you can. Next!



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Wild Birds Unlimited
1660 W. Randol Mill Rd.
Arlington, TX 76012
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www.wbu.com/arlingtonx
Hours 10 - 6 Mon - Sat,
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Supporting local sustainability

P.O. Box 264
Arlington TX 76004-0264
GreenArlington.org
214-709-8791



Paul Krudsen's
ArlingtonNOW.com
Event Photography
Portfolio_Studio@yahoo.com
817.265.4441



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*These colors must mean spring.
Giant spiderwort from Dick Schoech.*

GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

John DYCUS

3607 Shady Park Drive
Arlington, TX 76013
(817) 277-2138
john@jcdycus.com



DAN HILER
817 460-TREE

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More from Last Month's Speaker **Rebecca Boxall**



Front: Council Member Rebecca Boxall & husband Don Boxall
Middle: Glenn McCoy, Jim Frisinger
Back: Jay Dickson, Chris Rogers

You may recall that last month Council Member Rebecca Boxall spoke to us about Arlington's environmental programs. Recently she took the trouble to send more information in a message to ACC President Dick Schoech:

I wanted to follow up about that State bill I referred to. It was SB 1686. It was passed under the rationale of food security, meaning allowing vegetable gardening and raising small livestock (chicken, bees, rabbits) on residential lots including front yards. The broader interpretation is that grass lawns cannot be mandated. However, this has yet to be solidified through court challenges.

I neglected to mention a grassroots student group at UTA that has emerged. You may want to collaborate with Tony Pham of Walkable Arlington <https://walkablearlington.godaddysites.com/>. The group is primarily concerned with walkability, bikability and micro-mobility, however there is crossover with other environmental issues. They have an upcoming walk-audit I plan to attend.

Yes, it sounds like there are a number of areas where we can work in concert on environmental issues. I look forward to working with your group on local initiatives. You may wish to talk to our newer council members as well.

Thanks so much for inviting me!

Rebecca Boxall
Council Member for District 5
Arlington, Texas

We're Doing Something Big



ACC has established an endowment with UTA to aid future environmentalists. It's already helping.*



Donate [Here](#)

*The first endowment scholarship has been awarded to a UTA sophomore. It gave him the opportunity to research Vehicle to Grid (V2G) technology, a smart-charging technology allowing car batteries to give back to the power grid. You can watch his presentation [here](#).

My Nature Notebook

TURTLE BUTTS!!

So there's this pond where I find cool things in the mud and yesterday it was a little ugly turtle. But



then the creepy old man saw me and said get out of my pond right now and quit bothering that stinkpot. And I said don't call me a stinkpot and he said, no, no. That turtle, it's very special because it can breathe through its tongue. No way, I said. And he said yeah, and some turtles get air through their skin and some breathe through their butts so they can hang on when it's really cold. And I said I'm telling my mother you said butts. I don't care, just go tell her I said cloacal respiration. So I did and she said I'm calling the cops on both of you.

Randol Mill Park Carol Marcotte

**Earth Day in Randol Mill Park
will be on Saturday, Apr. 22
from 9 a. m. to noon.**

We'll have something for everyone:
trail building, gardening, erosion
planting, privet pulling, tree planting,
and litter cleanup.

Sign in at the park pavilion, grab a snack,
water, and a tool to help out on this
special day.



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Recent scenes at the park. From left, Bluebonnet in the Triangle Garden. Nest box with with 5 bluebird eggs. RMP has 13 bluebird nest boxes that are monitored by Jamie Brunner and Carol Marcotte. Redbud in bloom near the pond.



Randol Mill Park continued from page 11

Our last park cleanup was held on Saturday March 4. Several Neighbors of Randol Mill Park volunteers loaded up piles of litter bags from the park, creek, and pond.

Clockwise from right, Brenda O'Quinn and Joe Roe work along the creek, Beverly Windsor with an impressive collection of trash bags, Ben Nieves family starting young on the right path.



Arlington's Heritage Trees

ACC Heritage Trees

Here's my candidate. I see this amazing post oak every day on Abram St. just east of Fielder House Museum and right now it's just leafing out. This oak is not just huge, it is wonderfully symmetrical, and some of the branches even brush the ground.

**Do you know a heritage tree just waiting to be admired?
There's room for lots more, so let's see yours.**



In Case You Missed It Grace Darling

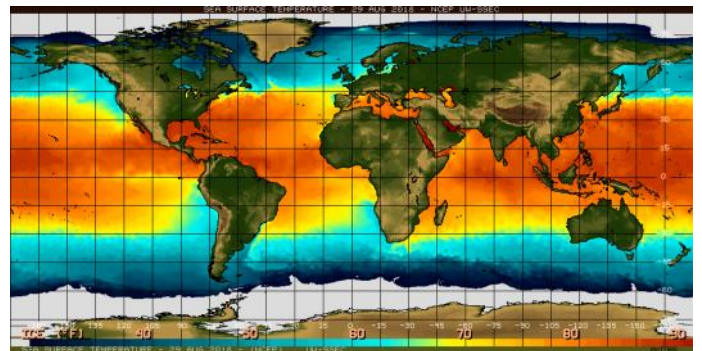


Did you ever wonder how to tell apart **katydids from grasshoppers**? Well, wonder no more, thanks to this comment on the occasion of photos of the spectacular Lichen katydid: “There are various differences. Grasshoppers have short antennae, and males ‘sing’ (stridulate) by rubbing their hind legs against their body. Katydid have long antennae, and like related insects we call crickets they sing by rubbing their wings together. Grasshoppers have ears at the base of their abdomen, and katydids and crickets have ears on their front legs. So that raises the question about the difference between katydids and crickets. These insects are related, and some crickets look katydid-like and vice-versa in overall look. But one difference is their feet. Crickets have 3 segmented feet, and katydids have feet with 4 segments.

Modern infrastructure is encroaching on nearly 80% of areas deemed critical to protecting the



diversity of life on Earth, according to a recent study from the UK. The researchers mapped over 15,000 areas deemed key to biodiversity as well as current and potential infrastructure within those boundaries, such as roads, dams and reservoirs, urban development, oil and gas facilities, and mines. Highlights of the study include: 1) Roads are the most common type of infrastructure, but should be designed to cause as little damage as possible and the impacts more than compensated for elsewhere. 2) Energy-related infrastructure and mines are associated with pollution, habitat destruction, and other hazards to wildlife. 3) Biodiversity hot spots such as Brazil and central Africa are at particular risk for future development. 4) The potential effects of construction, pollution, and human activities can be largely unseen: birds, for example, can run into power lines or buildings and die, and roads can disrupt animals’ critical migration routes. 5) We need to understand how infrastructure impacts species and ecosystems within key diversity areas.



Earth’s **ocean temperatures** have risen so fast in recent weeks that one indicator shows surface waters have already reached their highest temperatures on record — a worrisome sign ahead of a predicted El Nino climate pattern that could further accelerate planetary warming. The NOAA data show a steady warming trend in sea surface water since the 1980s, and 2023 is on pace to be yet another year among the warmest on record for the oceans. Forecast

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In Case You Missed It continued from page 14

models suggest El Nino is likely to occur by late summer or early fall, and El Nino can accelerate the steady rise in global temperatures because those warm Pacific waters translate to increased evaporation, which leads to increased cloud cover, which blocks sunlight from reaching Earth's surface, and encourages the trapping of heat in the atmosphere. La Nina, which is marked by cooler-than-normal equatorial Pacific surface waters, had persisted for the past 3 years but ended last month.

After months of surveys and listening sessions with its members, the board of directors of the **National Audubon Society** has decided to retain the name of John James Audubon, famed 19th century naturalist and wildlife illustrator who was also an unabashed enslaver. "The name has come to represent not one person, but a broader love of birds and nature," said the chair of the society. "And yet we must reckon with the racist legacy of John James Audubon, the man." [Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 3/17/23]

Catching up with old news: At the [United Nations Biodiversity Conference](#) in Montreal (COP15) which ended 19 December 2022, member countries reached an agreement that represents a key step in protecting the world's lands and oceans and bolsters efforts to safeguard the world's climate. Governments committed to protect 30% of land and water considered important for biodiversity by 2030 – aka **the 30-by-30 agreement**. Currently only 17% of terrestrial and 10% of marine areas are protected. The Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework also calls for raising USD 200 billion by 2030 for biodiversity from a range of sources and working to phase out or reform subsidies that could provide another USD 500 billion for nature. As part of the financing package, the framework asks for increasing to at least USD 20 billion annually by 2025 the money that goes to poor countries. That number would increase to USD 30 billion each year by 2030.

Paris moment for nature

The UN Biodiversity Summit has approved a landmark deal to protect nature and direct billions of dollars towards biodiversity conservation. Highlights of the deal

- 2030 limit** The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contains 23 action-oriented targets, which have been divided in three broad categories:
- Reducing threats to biodiversity**
- Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing**
- Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming**

KEY TARGETS

- Conserve area:** At least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal, marine areas, are conserved
- Restore ecosystems:** At least 30% of areas of degraded ecosystems are under restoration
- Reduce harmful subsidies:** Identify, and eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity

Officials at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal. AFP

DIVERGENCES REMAIN: Division over how to fund efforts led to intense negotiations, with China, chair for COP15, disregarding objections from the delegation of the DRC

Why biodiversity? Land and marine ecosystems that are home to the vast majority of the world's species — forests, peatlands, coastal areas and the ocean — absorb more than 50% of man-made carbon emissions. This makes them vital to meeting the Paris Agreement's central goal of holding global average temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees compared to pre-industrial times. At the same time, biodiversity plays a huge role in building resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, with nature-based solutions — such as the protection of coral reefs and mangrove forests that protect coastal communities from storms, flooding and erosion. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change, [welcomed the agreement](#) reached in Montreal and underscored the overlapping significance of the biodiversity and climate agendas. "Nature and biodiversity are two sides of the same coin — the two go hand in hand. Climate change is negatively impacting biodiversity, and biodiversity is part of the solution to climate change. After decades of ecosystem destruction and plummeting biodiversity, the agreement reached at COP15 provides the framework to halt and reverse these trends. There is no turning back, no excuses for inaction. The direction of travel is clear," he said. May the wind fill their sails.

Bits and a Picture

If you're not already tired of hearing about privet, this is a very good overview.

https://greensourcedfw.org/articles/battling-privet-north-texas-parks?fbclid=IwAR1YgrwmTi9Gf5Uy9k9p57ktWiRRda2TMCAtSlq38ipaqxJ_q7T3oshyShY

Pollinators 101: You already know a lot, but there's probably something new for you in this.

<https://www.ecowatch.com/pollinators-facts-ecowatch.html>

Shouldn't we be thinking about No Mow March?

<https://beecityusa.org/no-mow-may/>

The Terse Treehugger was wrong last month.

<https://www.monarchgard.com/thedeepmiddle/we-can-do-better-than-dandelions>

Flooded gilgai at Blackland Prairie Preserve on Mar. 11. This one is far from the temporary ponds in the low wooded area, but it was full of calling cricket frogs.



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marian Hiler

Earlier-than-usual warm weather welcomed emerging spring-green foliage and fragrance from yellow agarita, white Mexican plum, and bright-pink Mexican buckeye blossoms. As those blooms faded, purple mountain laurel, orange-red crossvine, and shades of red and pink autumn sage are stepping up.

Bluebonnets, primrose, winecup, and mealy blue sage flowers are never far behind, with buds peeking out now. It's a glorious time to visit the wildscape!

The cool-weather invasive weeds got a head start on the native plants, as is their wont, making their removal the current major focus. Many initially are attractive, like winter rye grass, but that appreciation lasts but a moment since they choke out the natives. Not surprisingly, areas that volunteers have only recently addressed — along the gully down from the bioswale, for example — are still heavy with weeds,

from chickweed to sticky-weed to weeds we don't have PG-rated names for.

Project lead Ann Knudsen showed volunteers which plants to remove and which to leave, chanting the mantra, "Don't know? Let it grow." Bushels of the noxious weeds were removed, with more to get next month.

Then there's Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), the perennial nemesis of natural areas everywhere. The USDA National Invasive Species Information Center calls it one of the worst invasive plants in the South. "It dominates the shrub layer and often becomes the only shrub underneath trees, especially in streamside areas." That was certainly the wildscape in its infancy.

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Left, Mexican plums (*Prunus mexicana*) in full bloom along the western sidewalk.

Right, A large, healthy agarita (*Mahonia trifoliolata*) thrives on the berm near the main entrance. It obviously likes the well-drained soil and sunny spot. This is an excellent shrub for your own landscape. The fragrant yellow flowers are a source of nectar for early pollinators. Songbirds can feast on the glossy red berries that will develop come May through July. Any berries the birds don't get can be made into a tasty jelly. Sharp holly-like leaflets are an excellent protective shelter for birds, small mammals and herps. Photos Ann Knudsen.

Wildscape Update continued from page 17



Left, winecup ([Callirhoe involucrata](#)); right, wild geranium ([Geranium carolinianum](#)) Photos Ann Knudsen

An example of mistaken identities. The leaves of winecup and wild geranium/cranesbill can be difficult to tell apart. Winecup leaves are deeply lobed and cleft. Geranium leaves are similarly palmately five-parted but with each part being cleft or lobed again. Winecups have green stems versus the reddish stems of the geranium. Though a native, the aggressive wild geranium is removed from the sidewalk edges but left to grow in the wilder areas.

In 2000, Northrop Grumman's Project Good Turn made a tremendous impact, removing piles upon piles of the wretched shrub over numerous weekends. Every year since then, volunteers team up for the annual privet pull in honor of Molly Hollar's birthday. This time of year, deciduous trees and shrubs haven't leafed out yet, making the evergreen privet easier to spot. Persistence is paying off. This

year's pull was more maintenance than full-blown project.

First Saturday mini-classes

At the March mini-class, Michael Smith, author and ardent reptile enthusiast, discussed how herps survive winter weather. Reptiles and amphibians are

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Left, privet, privet everywhere in 2000. Archive photo. Right, the same general area essentially free of it in 2023. Photo Ann Knudsen.

Wildscape Update continued from page 18



David van Hook and Mike Warren remove privet along the creek bed. Instead of digging up the roots in this area, they cut to the ground, then judiciously apply stump killer, leaving the roots to hold the soil in place and help stem erosion. Photo Ann Knudsen.

cold-blooded (ectothermic), meaning they rely on the external environment to regulate their body temperature. When the weather gets too cold, lizards, snakes, frogs, and toads can take shelter in an old log or hollow tree, or under some leaf litter or a large rock. They can snuggle beneath a compost pile or burrow in the soft soil.

Turtles such as red-eared sliders need protection only briefly if several days of freezing temps occur. They can go to the bottom of the pond and dig in, coming out when it warms — they don't need to hibernate the whole winter.

Herps' systems don't shut down for hibernation. Temperature is the trigger. When it gets cold, their metabolic processes slow, although they still need to move around to get water and food. Since this period of lessened activity is not a true hibernation, American zoologist Wilbur W. Mayhew in 1965 proposed the term "brumation" to indicate winter dormancy vs hibernation's deep sleep. Herpetology hobbyists like the definition more than academics do.

In our own yards, Michael said we can help a local population through a rough patch such as drought by gardening with native plants that attract native invertebrates. Invite toads by installing a small pond or other ground-level water source. Herps need protection from predators, so don't rake up all the leaf litter; it keeps the ground covered and moist. Make a toad house by laying a clay pot horizontally on the ground and burying the lower half in the soil.

In the April 1 mini-class, "Let's Teach About the Importance of Our Watershed," Master Naturalist/retired science teacher Carrie Donovan and versatile volunteer Marylee Thomason will show how to use an Enviroscape model to engage children and adults on the importance of keeping the watershed

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Wildscape Update continued from page 19



First Saturday mini-class: Michael Smith explains how lizards and other herps handle blizzards.

pollutant free. Using hands-on methods, the model demonstrates how water pollution can happen in a variety of ways in our own backyards, and how it can impact water resources.

A little more wildscape variety: from left, mountain laurel, Texas spiny lizard. Marian Hiler photos.



Chachalaca Chatter: Sabal Palms

Editor's Note: You may wonder why this article from the Lower Rio Grande Valley appears here. I resisted at first, but Ms. Darling pointed out the importance of a relationship described near the end. It's another example of a symbiosis that may help with habitat restoration efforts anywhere.

By Connie Unsicker with photos by Tom Unsicker

Estero Llano Grande State Park

The robust Sabal Palm is one of the exceptional native Texas evergreen trees found only as far north as the Rio Grande Valley. (It's *Sabal mexicana*, not to be confused with the more widespread *Sabal minor*.) Seeing a solitary Sabal Palm reminds me that there used to be abundant forests of them. The forty- to sixty-foot tall palms towered over the surrounding landscape. Lush vines entangled in the thick mass of

undergrowth made it difficult to trek through. These forests looked like the romantic jungles of the early Tarzan movies.

There are very few left now, but when Spanish explorers arrived in the Rio Grande Valley, they found dense impenetrable groves of Sabal Palms lining the riverbanks. The sight was so stunning, they first called the Rio Grande the Rio de las Palmas!

When the Spaniards arrived, it's estimated there were probably 60,000 acres of Sabal Palms. Now there are fewer than 60 acres of original forest left. The remnant groves are at Sabal Palm Sanctuary and the nearby Nature Conservancy Southmost Preserve (eighty-five percent are behind the Border Wall). Sabals had supplied food and some shade for the First

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Sabal Palms continued from page 21

Peoples. They used the fronds for roof, hats, chair seats, and vessels for carrying goods and storing food. The arriving Spaniards used the Sabal Palm like the First Peoples. My research implied that part of the Sabal Palms' demise was the Spaniards' love of Heart of Palm supposedly tasting like cabbage or artichoke. The only way to harvest the heart is to cut down the tree.

Because many Spaniard settlers were farmers, they cut down the palms for decomposition-resistant fence posts to corral their cattle and keep out other animals. Then they cleared forest land for crops. The Spaniards became such large producers of food and goods, they began shipping those goods down rivers to be loaded onto ocean-going ships, off to exotic places far from southern Texas. The boats and barges had to be pulled upstream on the return trip by

mules and oxen until steam engines became popular. The high demand for engine fuel and for dock pilings that were straight, drought and water resistant and also resistant to the freshwater clam called shipworm led to the disappearance of Sabal Palm forests.

Estero is doing its part by planting individual palms, but we'll never replace tall, thick forests of Sabal Palms. Since our Estero Sabals were transplanted in 2005, our palms are only two stories tall. The four-to seven-foot long fronds grow on razor-edged spineless stalks. The fronds spread out ten to thirteen feet. The fan-shaped leaves have a curving arch that protects against the wind.

As the fronds begin dying, they droop down the trunk, forming a brown layered skirt where bats can

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Sabal Palms continued from page 22

roost at night. As the palms grow taller, the old frond stem bases form “pineapple-like” patterns on the twelve-inch diameter trunks.

Tiny cream-colored fragrant flowers grow on seven-to eight-foot-long stalks at the topmost of the tree. There are black berry-like 3/4” fruit. Birds love the flowers and the fruit! We can also eat the fruit.

Scientists observed that planted Sabal Palms are dispersing spontaneously and sporadically in mixed forests. However, they were unsuccessful in growing Sabals from seeds themselves. Then Southmost Preserve made a discovery. They have a nursery dedicated to growing Sabal Palms for use by parks and reforestation. They tried mimicking nature in all

different ways to grow palms from seed, but each seed had beetle holes no matter what techniques they tried. They then discovered the seeds in coyote scat never had beetle hole damage. Turns out Sabal Palm seeds are a coyote favorite. They find thirty to sixty seeds in each scat pile. When the seeds are processed through the animal, the seed composition changes so beetles no longer eat them, they’re pre-fertilized, and they grow very successfully at the Preserve now.

The tallest Estero Sabal Palms, behind the office are successfully reproducing offspring at their bases! Come and see our small grove and look for bats or other hidden wildlife. Enjoy the brawny Sabal Palms scattered throughout the rest of the park.



Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Annabelle Corboy

Friends of SCNP Monthly Meeting

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, April 18, 7 pm

Updates on the DFW Wildlife Monitoring Project

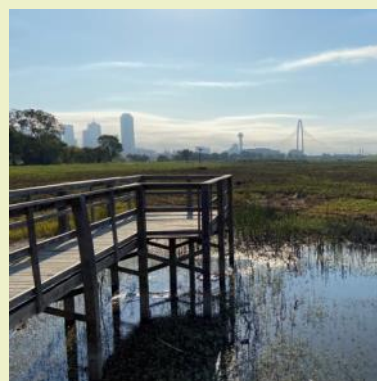
Rachel Richter

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Urban Biologist

West Arlington Police Service Center Community Room

2060 W Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington, TX 76013

Parking is available in front of the building via Ron McAndrew Drive.



Two years after the start of a project to understand how wildlife survives in the city, Rachel Richter returns with an update. The first session captured photos of the wildlife you'd expect, such as coyotes, foxes, deer, and raccoons. There were some nice surprises as well — the downtown FW camera captured an eastern spotted skunk and later a ringtail — both unusual sights in North Central Texas. Come find out what we've learned since then.

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Elbowbush seen on the winter tree ID walk

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 24

Starting April 15, a once-a-month volunteer day at SCNP

The Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve are beginning a monthly volunteer day on the **third Saturday of the month**. We'll tackle a wide variety of needs for the preserve. These include brush clearing, seeding, trail maintenance, transplanting and trash pickup. Volunteers will get to learn in depth about the preserve and its goals while contributing to sustaining and improving this treasured ecosystem.

Bring gloves, appropriate apparel and suntan lotion/bug repellent as needed. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot.

Review: Winter Tree ID Walk with Suzanne Tuttle

On Feb. 26, Suzanne led us on a walk at the preserve, where she showed us how to identify a tree or shrub in winter. The trick is to learn to know woody plants by their growth habits, bark, twigs, buds and leaf scars. Here is a sample of Suzanne's tips - several ways to tell a post oak from a blackjack oak:

Post oak (*Quercus stellata*)

White oak group

Bark: lighter with more lines

Leaf: lobes shaped like a cross

Leaf: hairs (trichomes) on underside look like stars

Post oak loses leaves in fall

Acorns: produced and dropped in same year

Blackjack oak (*Quercus marilandica*)

Red oak group

Bark: dark

Leaf: bristles at ends of lobes

Blackjack oak retains leaves through winter

Acorns: two years to grow and drop

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From left, Suzanne Tuttle, winter tree enthusiasts. Laura Capik photos.

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 25



Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) – Postoak, Juvenal's duskywing (*Erynnis juvenalis*)
– imadeline



Southern dewberry (*Rubus trivialis*) - galactic_bug_man, Peach (*Prunus persica*)
– joshmols

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Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve continued from page 26

Volunteers at Work: Garlic Removal Jeff Quayle

"Spent the morning killing some plants, but to be more specific, the non-native, invasive kind, at Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve. A crew of five people took out a small colony of wild garlic (*Allium vineale*) from several locations there. Also giving volunteer credit to Glenn Butler, Jim Frisinger, Jan Miller and Kim Courtney." Tarrant County, 3/10/23.

Allium vineale was introduced to the US from Europe, northwestern Africa and the Middle East. It grows in full sun or part shade (as we found) and can lie hidden in grassy areas until it's spread widely. It's difficult to control except by digging, as its waxy blue-green stems/leaves repel herbicides. Thanks to Jeff for bringing it to our attention and helping to remove it!

Jeff is a highly respected local botanist who has helped catalog natural areas across North Central Texas, including the early surveys of (then) Southwest Nature Preserve.



SCNP Friend Laura Capik had read "Parks and Rec Business" magazine for many years as a parks advocate and Arlington Parks Board member. She thought the national publication, written by and for parks and recreation professionals, would be a good place to share her love of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve, with the twist that the story is told from the perspective of its centuries-old Caddo Oak. To read this insightful article, click [here](#).

One last look at the winter tree ID walk (page 25). Walk leader Suzanne Tuttle always draws an attentive crowd, and this day was no exception.



Blackland Prairie Preserve Guy Random



Have you heard the one about spring on the prairie? Bet you have. I forget the punch line, but it's all about the miracle of renewal. And something about vigor, hope, and amazement in general. And green, too.



ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships are good for one year, renewable each January. Your dues go directly to our public education efforts.

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Address _____	Individual \$15	New Member ☐
_____	Family \$25	
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Email _____	Sponsor \$100	
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POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council
P.O. Box 216
Arlington, TX 76004-0216

Our April Zoom Meeting



Bee City and more

Melissa Walker
 Environmental Education Specialist
 City of Arlington

7 pm Wed, Apr 5, 2023
 Zoom meeting hosted by
 Arlington Conservation Council



Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89850862163>

See page 5 for more on this presentation.